

productive lives for LGBT and questioning youth ages 13–21, as they transition from adolescence into adulthood. SMYAL is the only Washington metro area service organization dedicated solely to supporting LGBTQ and questioning youth. The staff and volunteers concentrate on five activities: Life Skills and Leadership Development; Counseling and Support; Health and Wellness Education; Safe Social Activities; and Community Outreach and Education.

Ruby Corado has been a transgender rights activist in DC for over 15 years, focusing on the Latino community in the areas of health care, HIV, human rights, and immigration. She has been tireless and outspoken in defending and assisting transgender people, demanding justice for brutalized and murdered sex workers. She has been at victims' hospital bedsides, at meetings with police officials, and at crime scenes, and has organized vigils, bringing her own experience as a Latina transwoman to bear in promoting the interests of this at-risk community in our city. Ruby has worked as a program manager for Whitman Walker Health, Transgender Health Empowerment, and Latinas En Acción, a group she has led for many years.

Jeri Hughes has persistently and doggedly pressed the District government to increase its employment of transgender people. Her efforts led Mayor Vincent Gray to direct the Department of Employment Services to conduct Project Empowerment job training for transgender citizens. Her efforts to highlight violations of the DC Human Rights Act by the Department of Corrections have led to ongoing efforts by the city and activists to improve the treatment of the city's transgender inmates and detainees. Jeri Hughes helps transgender people every day in her job at Transgender Health Empowerment.

Will O'Bryan is Managing Editor of Metro Weekly, which he joined in 2005 as a community reporter. He previously served as a news reporter and arts editor for the Washington Blade, and as a media liaison for a nonprofit health organization. Prior to that, he was arts and entertainment editor for Just Out, the Pacific Northwest's premier LGBT publication. Will is an unwavering advocate for coverage of the entire breadth of the LGBT community, especially those who are often neglected. In his biweekly column, "Stonewall Baby," he personally engages issues affecting our entire community. He exemplifies the quiet, unheralded commitment of the many people who do the vital work of building community.

Jeffrey D. Richardson is Director of the Mayor's Office of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Affairs, where he has taken the initiative to connect activists with key agency staff and get results. His tireless efforts have ranged from advocacy within the government to supervising young LGBT interns. He brings to his job the empathy and service-oriented approach that he developed in his career as a social worker. In his prior post as president of the Gertrude Stein Democratic Club, he was a steady leader who worked amicably and productively with GLAA and other advocacy groups and this year's recipients of its Distinguished Service Award.

I ask the House to join me in congratulating the Gay and Lesbian Activists Alliance.

HONORING MAYOR JOE AFFRONTI

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2012

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Temple Terrace Mayor Joe Affronti. In addition to representing the City of Temple Terrace, Florida, Mr. Affronti has also been a strong advocate for Project Gratitude.

Project Gratitude was founded in 2006 by David Lefavor, a retired military chaplain and has been championed by Mayor Affronti. Its mission was to provide military chaplains returning from deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan with a three-day complimentary visit to Tampa, Florida. During their stay, the chaplains and their families would visit area attractions including Busch Gardens, the Museum of Science and Industry, the Kennedy Space Center, and local restaurants.

In addition to his loyal support of Project Gratitude, Mayor Affronti enjoys community support in this endeavor from individuals, businesses, and Veterans' Service Organizations including: American Legion Post 152, Suncoast Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), Tampa Navy League, Busch Gardens, Kennedy Space Center, Lupton's Catering, Chamber of Commerce of Temple Terrace Florida, Museum of Science and Industry (MOSI), Marriott Towne Place, Hilton Garden Inn—North Tampa, the Marine Corps League of Florida, as well as the Major Samuel Woodfill Chapter of the Association of the United States Army (AUSA) in Dayton, Ohio.

Due to the drawdown of U.S. military forces from Iraq and Afghanistan, Project Gratitude's mission will conclude with its last reception on April 25th in Temple Terrace, Florida having provided a total of 75 Chaplains and their families with a 3-day "R & R" in appreciation for their service and sacrifice for God and Country.

As Vice Chairman of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, it is truly my honor to recognize Mayor Affronti for his dedication to this program and the cause of improving the lives of those who so selflessly gave to our Nation.

IN RECOGNITION OF CAROL STAFFORD

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2012

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Carol Stafford, a dear friend and an indefatigable health professional who for 39 years has dedicated her life to nursing and caring for the poor and those in need in San Mateo County. She retired as a triage nurse at Willow Clinic in Menlo Park on March 17, 2012 after a remarkable career that has touched the lives of thousands of county residents.

For almost four decades Carol brought life saving care to patients in the emergency room at San Mateo County General and she spearheaded comprehensive procedures for treating victims of sexual assault at a time when most hospitals had few protocols. She chose to work in facilities (Chope Hospital and Willow

Clinic) that treated the neediest and most vulnerable members of society because she believed that all patients deserve the highest level of medical care, regardless of economic circumstances. One of her patients described her as the nicest person he had ever met, but Carol treated all people the same way—with the utmost kindness, compassion and respect.

On June 10, 1973 Carol graduated from the College of San Mateo with an associate degree in nursing. The next day she started her career working nights on the medical surgical floor at Chope Hospital, which is now San Mateo Medical Center. Two years later she moved to the emergency room and by 1981 she was promoted to Nurse Manager of the Emergency Department. While she was working full time she returned to college and earned her Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing at California State University at Long Beach.

Back then police had limited protocols for dealing with victims of sexual assault. Often times, assault victims were taken to emergency rooms for a rape kit, but no counseling would be offered. Carol decided she wanted to change that and worked with the emergency room physician manager, the police department and the board of supervisors to develop comprehensive treatments for survivors of sexual assault.

At the time, I was on the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors and worked with Carol to develop these new standards. Policies and procedures were implemented to train staff. There was always someone on call who knew exactly how to treat victims of sexual assault with both counseling and support and Chope Hospital emerged as a model and a leader in handling rape cases. Over time, the program evolved into the Keller Center for Family Violence Intervention, a nationally recognized program that provides victims of child abuse, elder abuse, sexual assault and domestic violence with comprehensive medical, emotional, social and legal support.

Carol has strong ties to the Bay Area. She was born in San Francisco and grew up in San Carlos. At age 15 Carol's father passed away. Her mother went to work to support the family, demonstrating qualities of strength and independence. All three sisters graduated from college and went on to have successful careers. Carol's younger sister, Denise Raabe, is the Santa Clara County Deputy District Attorney and her middle sister, Gail Raabe, served as San Mateo County Agricultural Commissioner.

Carol is a life-long Giant's fan and a baseball fanatic. Growing up, she posted 8-by-10-inch photographs of the entire San Francisco Giants team in her bedroom. To this day, she has season tickets. Carol's devoted husband of 41 years, George Stafford, her sons Paul and Joseph and her daughter-in-law, Courtney Stafford, will now enjoy more quality time with Carol. It's important to note that even as demanding as Carol's nursing career has been, she has always put family first and was home most days when her boys came home from school.

Though Carol has retired from a wonderful career, she will continue to play a vital role in our community and she will certainly have a friend in me for life.

Mr. Speaker, Carol Stafford has dedicated her life to assisting people in need. I ask that the House of Representatives to join me in